

iPad Calligraphy in Procreate Help Guide

Common Fixes & Setup Tips



Your Troubleshooting Cheat Sheet for Procreate

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Welcome to this helpful guide for Procreate Artists

Welcome to your Troubleshooting & Tips Guide - a helpful companion created especially for students of the **iPad Calligraphy Starter Kit mini course**.

My name is Nicole from **iPad Calligraphy**, and I help curious creatives master the iPad & Procreate for lettering and design.

Inside this guide you'll find answers to the most common questions and hiccups that pop up when learning digital calligraphy in Procreate. From **brush selection to layer visibility** to those pesky alert pop-ups, this guide is here to keep you moving forward with confidence.

Even if you're not currently going through the Starter Kit, you'll still find plenty of useful tips here, especially if you're new to using Procreate for lettering.



Not enrolled in the Starter Kit Course yet?
You can join for free anytime at
ipadcalligraphy.com/free and get instant
access to the video lessons and worksheet
that pair with this resource.

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Common Brush Problems (and How to Fix Them)

♥ Want to Write in True Black?

If your strokes are showing up as gray or another color, here's how to switch to a true black color in Procreate:

1. Tap the colored circle in the top-right corner of your screen to open the Color Panel.
2. At the bottom of the panel, tap the "Disc" tab.
3. Now double-tap near the bottom of the color disc, right in the black area. Procreate will snap to pure black for you.
4. Now double-tap near the bottom of the color disc, right in the black area. Procreate will snap to pure black for you.
5. You'll see the color circle update to black, now your brush will draw in **true black ink**!

🔥 Pro Tip: You can also save this color to your palette so it's easy to select again later. Just tap an empty square in your 'Palettes' to save.

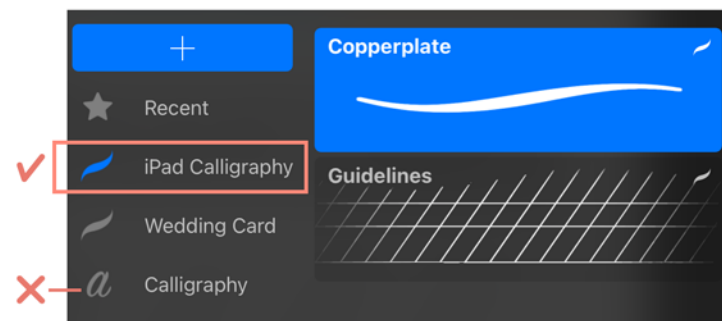


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Choosing the Correct Brush Set

Make sure you're using the '**Copperplate**' brush from the '**iPad Calligraphy**' brush set, the one that came with your Starter Kit download.

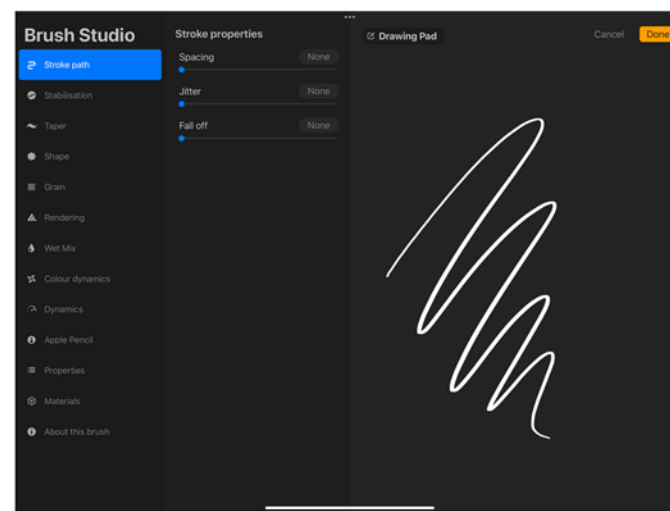
Open the Brush Library (tap the brush icon at the top right of the menu bar). Scroll up to the very top of the brush list to find your 'iPad Calligraphy' set.



⚠ Don't get mixed up with Procreate's default '**Calligraphy**' set, it's not the one we'll be using in this course.

Accidentally Opening Brush Studio

If you **tap on the brush twice**, you'll open Brush Studio (the brush settings editor). Don't worry, just tap '**Done**' to return to the canvas. You don't need to change any brush settings right now.



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How to Turn Off or Change Apple Pencil Double-Tap

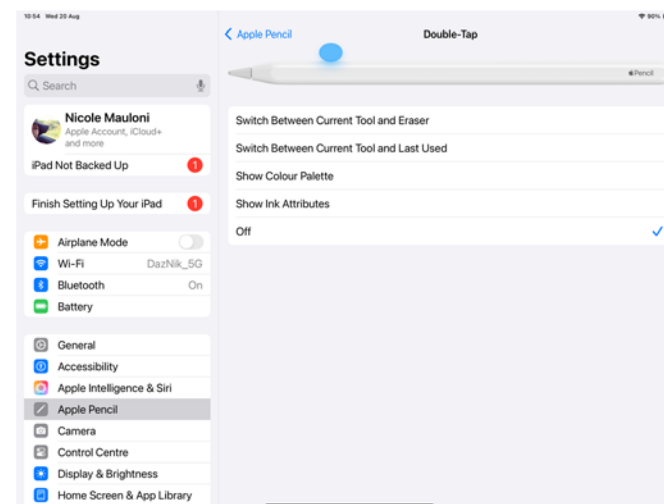
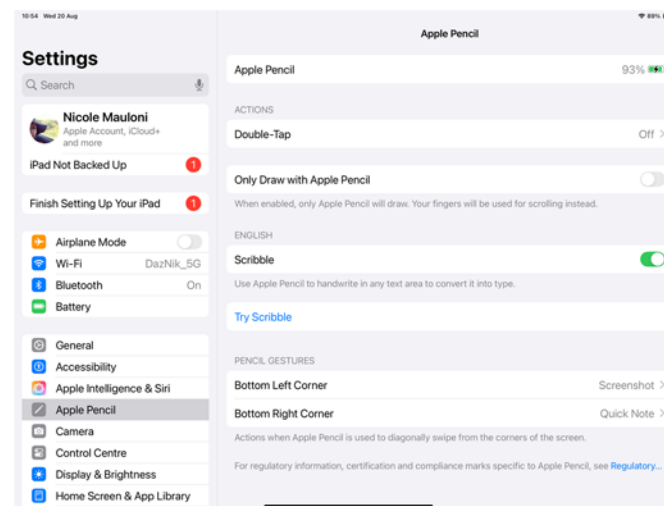
If you're using an Apple Pencil (2nd generation) or Apple Pencil Pro, it comes with a feature where double-tapping the flat side of the pencil can switch between tools, like switching from brush to eraser.

This can be annoying if it keeps changing by accident while you're working!

To turn off or change this setting:

1. Open the '**Settings**' app in your iPad.
2. Scroll down and tap on '**Apple Pencil**'.
3. Under the '**Double Tap**' section, you'll see several options, choose 'Off'. Alternatively, if you find one of the other options useful, you can select one that feels right for you.

⚠ If you don't see the 'Double Tap' section, attach your Apple Pencil to your iPad and the menu should show appear after a few seconds.



Common Layer Problems (and How to Fix Them)

👁️ Layer Visibility Matters

Each of the 8 basic strokes in your workbook comes with its own group of layers:

A 🖋️ blank practice layer where you'll write.

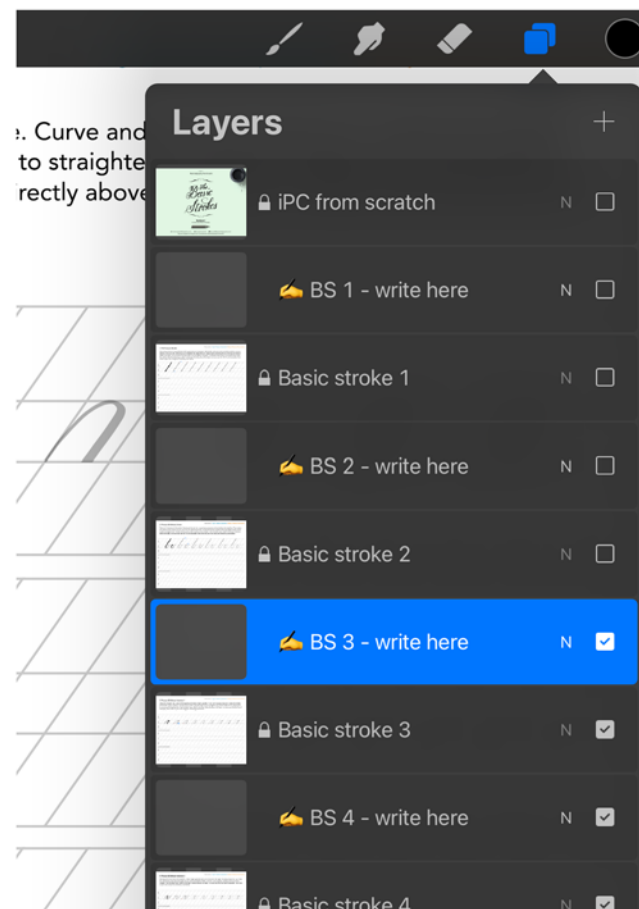
An instructions layer underneath that shows you how to write it.

Before you start writing, make sure you have the right layers visible:

✅ Turn ON the checkbox next to your blank practice layer (it has the 🖋️ emoji in the name).

✅ Also turn ON the checkbox for the instruction layer just below it, this has the stroke guide you'll be tracing.

In the example shown on the right, this artist is all set up to practice Basic Stroke 3. Her Practice layer (🖋️) is blue, which means it's the active layer she's writing on. That layer is also visible (the checkbox is ticked). The 'Basic Stroke 3' instructions layer underneath is also visible. Everything above those two layers is turned OFF, which keeps the canvas clear and ensures nothing is accidentally covering the guides.

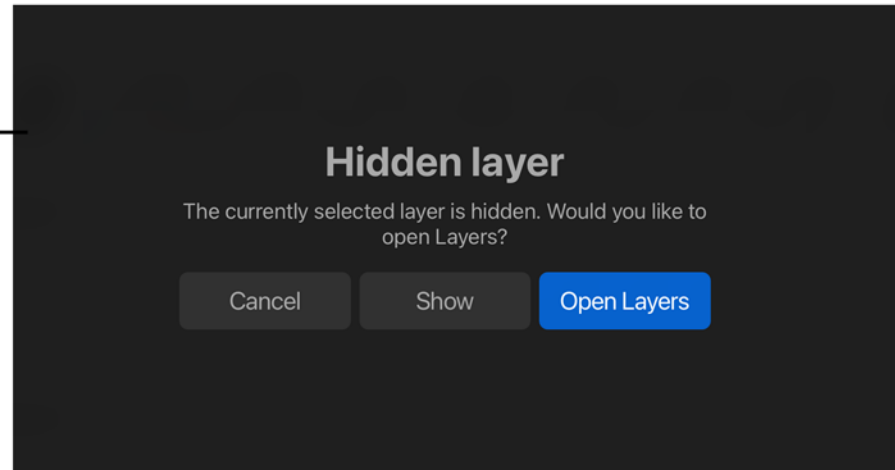


! Seeing One of These Alerts?

"Layer Hidden" Warning

If you see this message, it means you're trying to write on a layer that's hidden.

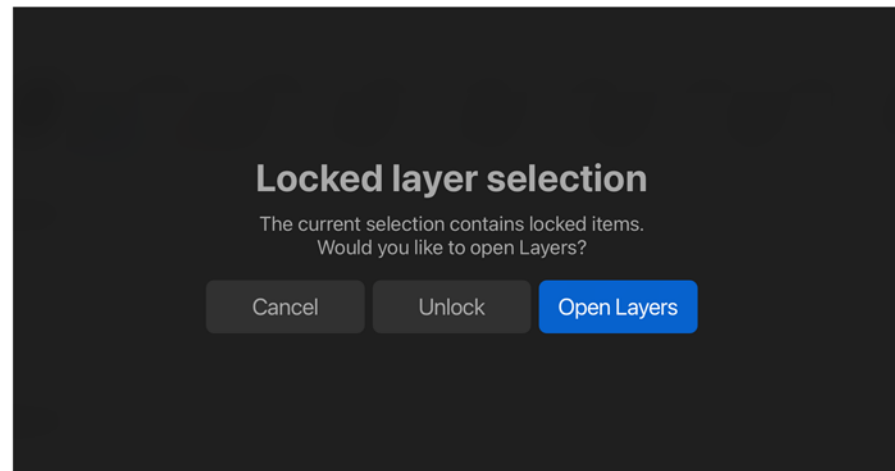
If you see a "Layer Hidden" warning, **tap Cancel**, then make sure the visibility of your 'Write here' practice layer is turned on (the checkbox is ticked).



"Layer Locked" Warning

If you see the Locked layer notification, it means you're trying to write on the guide layer instead of the blank one above it.

The guide layer is locked on purpose so you can reuse it. Just **tap Cancel**, then select the blank practice layer (the one with the 🖋️ emoji) above the guide layer.



Re-using the Layers

Reuse Your Practice Sheets

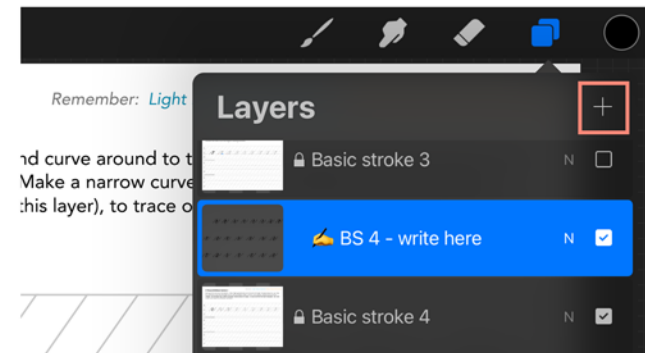
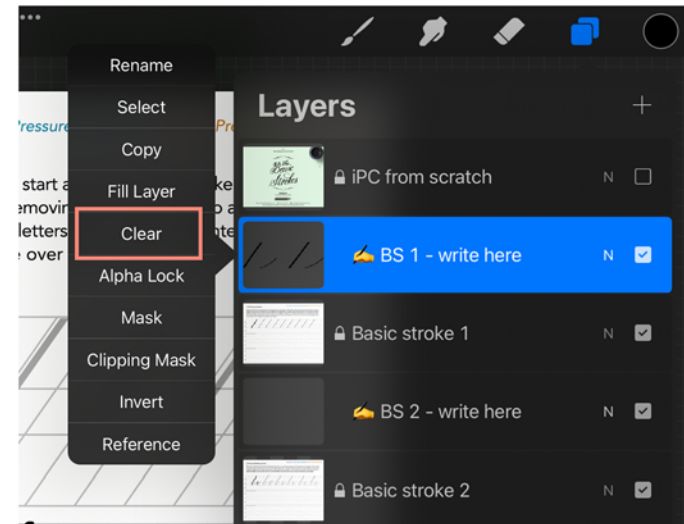
The iPad Calligraphy Guide was designed to be used again and again so you can keep practicing without needing to re-download anything. If you've filled your '🖋️ write here' practice layer and want to re-do the stroke, you've got two easy options:

Option 1. Clear the current practice layer

Tap on the '🖋️ write here' layer to open the layer options menu, then choose 'Clear'. This will erase everything on that layer, giving you a clean slate to practice again.

Option 2. Add a new blank layer

Tap the + icon in the top of the Layers Panel to add a new layer above your current practice layer. Then turn the old layer off (uncheck its visibility), and use the new one to continue practicing. This is a great option if you want to keep your earlier attempts to look back on later.



✨ Touch Gestures Troubleshooting

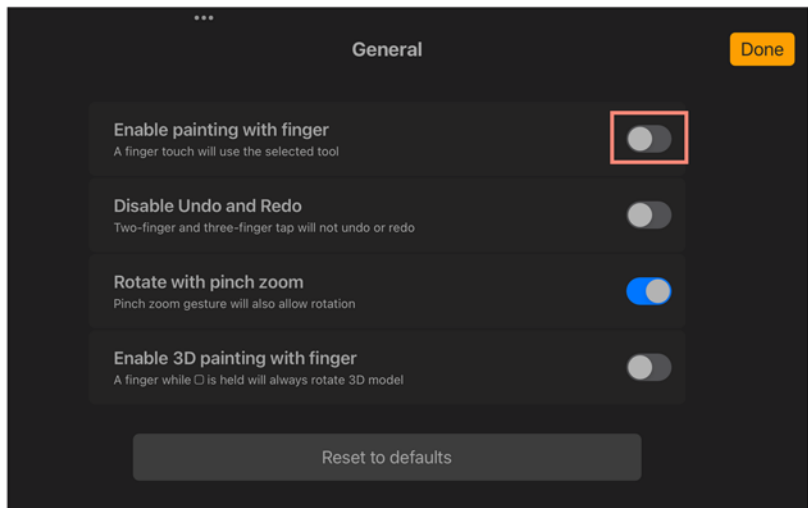
Undo & Redo Not Working

If the two-finger tap isn't undoing your last move, try the Undo and Redo buttons. They're on the left-hand side of the screen near the bottom.



Your Palm or Hand Making Marks

If your hand is making marks on the screen, go into 'Actions' menu, and choose 'Prefs' panel. Then tap **Gesture Controls** from the menu. Tap on the 'General' menu, and make sure the "**Enable painting with finger**" toggle is OFF. This means only your Apple Pencil will mark the screen, and prevents unintentional marks from your palm or fingers.



Help Me Make This Guide Even Better

Was there something missing?

I created this guide to help you feel supported and confident as you learn iPad Calligraphy, but if there's something that's missing, confusing, or didn't help when you got stuck,
I'd love to hear about it.

Your feedback helps me improve this guide for you and for future students too!

 Email me anytime at:
nicole@ipadcalligraphy.com

Let me know what tripped you up, and I'll add it to the next update of this guide!

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